

PHILIP MORRIS MANAGEMENT CORP.

Law Department Memorandum  
Richmond, Virginia

To: Ken Houghton

Date: 3 June 1991

From: Charles E. B. Glenn

Subject: STATUS OF NET PATENT CASES

The NET patent docket and status is listed below:

D670 entitled, "Pretreating Tobacco with Basic Materials Before Impregnation to Allow for Reduced Pressure in Processing" (H. B. Merritt); the file was inactivated for want of further information.

D730 entitled, "Application of Radio Frequency (RF) in the Treatment of Impregnated Filler" (E. B. Fischer and T. C. Holland); the file was inactivated for needing further definition.

D779 entitled, "Addition of a Polyvalent Cation to Tobacco to Enhance the Performance of the Tobacco Through the DIET Process" (J. C. Crump and D. R. Donaher); Fish & Neave is evaluating patentability.

D834 entitled, "Humid Air Reordering of Expanded Tobacco" (M. S. North and W. D. Winterson); the disclosure is to be considered at June 6 patent review meeting.

D835 entitled, "Means of Conveying Tobacco Through a Reordering Stream" (see D834) (M. S. North and W. D. Winterson); the disclosure is to be considered at June 6 Patent Committee meeting.

The disclosure sets forth an articulated belt that prevents tobacco from falling through its edges and provides gentle handling of product while allowing gas-tobacco contact, as would be required for reordering or drying tobacco.

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D836 entitled, "Improved Means of Drying Expanded Tobacco" (M. S. North and W. D. Winterson); the disclosure is to be considered at June 6 Patent Committee meeting.

The disclosure sets forth a device similar to a gyrocompact spiral freezer, modified such that (1) drying air replaces the cold air typical for freezers, (2) air flow is either cocurrent or countercurrent to tobacco flow, (3) air velocity is sufficiently high to remove required moisture from tobacco in a single stage, and (4) the belt is modified to carry tobacco.

PM1179 entitled, "Process for Expanding Tobacco" (F. V. Utsch); the disclosure is on hold pending receipt of additional data.

The disclosure sets forth a method comprising the steps of subjecting tobacco to an inert gas at a pressure of from 200 to 1000 PSIG, cooling the pressurized tobacco to a temperature below -30 degrees F and maintaining the tobacco in the cooled, pressurized condition for a period of from 30 to 60 minutes and then depressurizing and rapidly treating the tobacco to provide expansion of the tobacco.

PM1422 entitled, "Expanded Tobacco Using Concentrated Microwave Energy" (R. A. Tamol); a draft application is being reviewed by inventor.

PM1461 entitled, "Low Pressure/Temperature Tobacco Impregnation" (J. M. Dobbs and K. H. Cho); further research is needed to define operating conditions.

PM1462 entitled, "Continuous Impregnation and Expansion Processes for Tobacco" (K. H. Cho); further research is needed to define operating conditions.

The disclosure sets forth an impregnator utilizing cascading pressurization along a screw conveyor. It is considered to be low priority.

PM1463 entitled, "Semi-Continuous Gaseous Impregnation and Expansion Processes for Tobacco" (K. H. Cho); an application is to be drafted, but efforts are presently on hold until after PM 1522 is filed.

The disclosure has been modified to include a fully contained belt feeder within an impregnator vessel.

PM1500 entitled High Pressure Rotary Valve (K. H. Cho); machine drawings are being sent to Fish & Neave; Securamax has signed the recent Patent and Confidentiality Agreement; the current interest in using the disclosed device in NET is presently low because of expectations regarding tobacco degradation.

PM1508 entitled, "Continuous Tobacco Expansion Processing Using a Linear Pocket Feeder (LPF) to Maintain Isolated Pressure Environments" (W. A. Nichols); a draft is being prepared, but waiting for inventor's comments on PM 1510 draft.

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PM1509 entitled, "Method for Continuous Impregnation of Tobacco with a Gas or Liquid by Using a Device that Contains the Tobacco in Individual Chambers that Have End Seals to Maintain Isolated Pressure Environments" (W. A. Nichols); a draft is being prepared, but waiting for inventor's comments on PM 1510 draft.

PM1510 entitled, "Method for the Expansion of Tobacco Using a Linear Pocket Feeder (LPF) to Maintain Isolated Pressure Environments" (W. A. Nichols); a draft was received May 23.

PM1522 entitled, "Process for Impregnating Tobacco" (K. H. Cho, J. M. Dobbs, J. G. Nepomuceno, and R. Prasad); a draft application was reviewed by inventors with Fish & Neave attorney on May 17, 1991, redraft is due June 17, 1991, and filing is expected by end of June 1991.

The patent application is to cover the process currently being developed for immediate application.

PM1612 (D814) entitled, "Reordering of Expanded Tobacco by Air at Near-Equilibrium Relative Humidity" (J. C. Crump, E. B. Fischer, and W. D. Winterson); the disclosure is being forwarded to Fish & Neave June, 1991.

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